

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 035809

EXDIS, TOSEC 375, FOR SISCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 1298 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED
14 FEBRUARY 1975:

QTE

S E C R E T ATHENS 1298

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DEFENSE AND OTHER ADDRESSEES AS APPROPRIATE
INCL DEPT ASST SECY DEF BERGOLD IN LISBON

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR

SUBJECT: US-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS - MILITARY FACILITIES

BEGIN SUMMARY: CONCLUDING SESSION OF CURRENT ROUND OF
TALKS BROUGHT FURTHER ELUCIDATION OF GREEK VIEWS, AND
CONTINUING TOUGH LINE CALLING FOR CLOSING OF US
FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON (ATHENAI) AIRPORT. ON HELLENIKON,
GREEK SPOKESMAN SAID HIS SIDE HAD STUDIED US REMARKS
MADE AT PRECEDING SESSION (ATHENS 1196), AND STATED
HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO INSIST THAT, IN KEEPING
WITH GREEK VIEW, US FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON WOULD HAVE
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TO BE CLOSED. GREEK SIDE ALSO ELABORATED ON THEIR VIEW
OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES I.E., INTELLIGENCE-
RELATED FACILITIES WHICH GREEKS HAVE AVOIDED SPECIFYING
AS SUCH IN CURRENT DISCUSSIONS SAYING THAT, IN GENERAL,

GREECE WOULD SEEK (A) GREEK COMMANDER FOR SUCH FACILITIES; (B) SOME PROVISION FOR APPROVAL OF US EQUIPMENT BY GREEK ARMED FORCES; (C) COMMON USE OF SOME EQUIPMENT FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES; (D) MORE ACCURATE COUNT OF US PERSONNEL AT FACILITIES; AND (E) PROVISION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES OF SUCH FACILITIES IN CASE OF CONFLICT IN WHICH GREECE BUT NOT WAS WAS INVOLVED (GREEK-TURKISH HOSTILITIES WERE THE OBVIOUS BUT UNSTATED CASE IN POINT). GREEK SIDE ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN BACKGROUND ON FUNCTIONING OF JOINT US-HOST COUNTRY INSTALLATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO COMMAND, FLAG, AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS. GREEK SIDE RAISED AGAIN THE VARIBOBI COMMUNICATIONS STATION, ASKING FOR TEXT OF GOVERNING AGREEMENT. IN CONCLUDING, GREEK SIDE SAID THAT AT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS THEY WOULD EXPECT TO TABLE SOME PRELIMINARY TEXTS ON MAJOR SUBJECTS OF INTERESTS.

US (STEARNS) RESPONDED THAT US ACTIVITIES AT HELLENIKON WERE IMPORTANT TO US AND, BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY, TO GREECE, AND THAT FUTURE TALKS COULD ADDRESS POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS IN US PRESENCE AT HELLENIKON WHICH MIGHT SATISFY GREEK INTERESTS BUT AVOID ABOLITION OF THE OVERALL FACILITY. RESPONDING GENERALLY TO GREEK REMARKS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, HE SAID THAT ALL US ACTIVITIES IN GREECE WERE CARRIED OUT UNDER GREEK HOSPITALITY, AND THAT OUR CONSIDERATION OF GREEK VIEWS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WOULD BE GUIDED BY THIS FACT. HE NOTED THAT GREEK VIEW ON STATUS OF SUCH FACILITIES IN TIMES OF CONFLICT RAISED LEGAL ISSUES WHICH NEEDED TO BE STUDIED AND WHICH HE COULD NOT ADDRESS ON THE SPOT. WITH REGARD TO GREEK REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FUNCTIONING OF JOINT FACILITIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES, STEARNS SAID THE US WOULD BE GLAD TO PROVIDE PERTINENT INFORMATION, ALTHOUGH GREEK PATTERN THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY EMERGE FROM PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT WELL PROVE TO BE IN A CATEGORY OF ITS OWN. STEARNS ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT US AGREED WITH PRINCIPLE OF WORKING TO DEVELOP ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD
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MAKE FACILITIES JOINT RATHER THAN UNILATERAL.

END SUMMARY.

1. THE THIRD PLENARY SESSION RESUMED AT 10AM ON 14 FEB. AMB CALOGERAS STATED THAT THERE WERE TWO ITEMS THAT HE WISHED TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN SIDE. REFERRING TO THE PROBLEM OF THE HELLENIKON AIR BASE AND MIN STEARNS SUGGESTIONS ON WEDNESDAY CONCERNING THE USE OF THE AIR BASE FOR BOTH THE GREEK AND US FORCES, HE INDICATED THE GREEK SIDE'S AWARENESS OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON THERE WHICH MIGHT BE VALUABLE TO GREECE, BUT NEVERTHELESS HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO

INSIST THAT THE FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON BE CLOSED. STEARNS RESPONDED THAT THE US SIDE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GREEKS CONSIDERED HELLENIKON A STICKY POINT, BUT BECAUSE THE HELLENIKON AIR BASE DID INCORPORATE FACILITIES OF ENORMOUS VALUE TO THE US, WHICH THE US SIDE BELIEVED ALSO WERE BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY VALUABLE TO GREECE AND FURTHER BECAUSE THE RELOCATION OF THESE FACILITIES PRESENTED MANY PRACTICAL PROBLEMS, THE US SIDE WOULD IN THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS PRESENT SOME ALTERNATIVES TO ELIMINATION. HE NOTED THAT HIS REMARKS ON FEB 12 WERE ONLY PRELIMINARY AND THAT THE WASHINGTON-BASED MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WOULD BE EXAMINING ALTERNATIVES. HE REFERRED AGAIN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCORPORATING US FACILITIES INTO THE ADJACENT GREEK AIR BASE, WHICH MIGHT BE THE MOST SATISFACTORY OUTCOME ALTHOUGH THE US WOULD LIKE TO RETAIN SOME OF ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES. HE RESERVED FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR A LATER, MORE COMPLETE US REACTION.

2. CALOGERAS THEN ADDRESSED THE STATUS OF THOSE US FACILITIES WHICH MIGHT REMAIN IN GREECE, STATING THAT THE GREEK SIDE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF JOINT GREEK-AMERICAN OPERATIONS. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXAMPLES OF JOINT US-HOST COUNTRY FACILITIES ELSEWHERE, AND STATED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE US SIDE COULD GIVE THEM AT LEAST A GENERAL OUTLINE OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS A MODEL FOR GREECE. STEARNS REPLIED THAT CALOGERAS COMMENTS LED DIRECTLY
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INTO THE ISSUE OF HOW ALL FACILITIES THE US ENJOYED MIGHT BE IDENTIFIED AS GREEK INSTALLATIONS. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DIFFERING ARRANGEMENTS THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AND HE AGREED THAT THE US SIDE WOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ARRANGEMENTS THE US HAD ELSEWHERE BUT STATED THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE NEW GREEK MODEL AND OUR EFFORTS HERE TOGETHER MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE THE BEST EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS. HE ADDED THAT THE US SIDE COULD PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ALTHOUGH PERHAPS THE TEXTS THEMSELVES, BECAUSE OF THEIR CLASSIFICATION BETWEEN TWO ALLIES, MIGHT NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PROVISION TO THIRD PARTIES.

3. CALOGERAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOUDHA PRESENTED A DIFFERENT PROBLEM FROM OTHER FACILITIES WHICH MIGHT REMAIN AND TURNED TO THE EXTENSIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES THAT THE US HAD IN GREECE, NOTING THAT IN SOME CASES THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS ON THESE FACILITIES AND STATING THAT A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED IN WHICH THESE WOULD BECOME JOINT GREEK-US FACILITIES SERVING THE MUTUAL AND COMMON DEFENSE NEEDS. HE COMMENTED THAT LATER HE WOULD BE GIVING SOME MORE GENERAL IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. HE STATED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WOULD LIKE TO

SEE A GREEK COMMANDING OFFICER AT EACH BASE, WITH GREEK SECURITY AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN A JOINT OPERATION. HE STATED THAT THE MODALITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED LATER SINCE AT THIS POINT IT WAS IMPORTANT JUST TO ESTABLISH THE CONCEPT. HE ADDED THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ON THESE INSTALLATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED IN GENERAL TERMS BY THE GREEK ARMED FORCES, IN CONSONANCE WITH THE US ARMED FORCES. HE BELIEVED THE TWO SIDES SHOULD WORK OUT THE PRACTICAL DETAILS OF COMMON USE OF EQUIPMENT FOR MILITARY DEFENSE PURPOSES AND THAT THIS WOULD BE A MODEL FOR FUTURE RELATIONS IN THIS FIELD. HE INDICATED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WOULD WISH TO KNOW THE NUMBER OF US PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO US FACILITIES, A MATTER OVER WHICH THE GOG NOW HAD NO CONTROL AND INDEED THAT NO ONE ON THE GREEK SIDE EVEN KNEW AT THIS TIME HOW MANY PEOPLE THE US HAD IN GREECE. HE DECLARED THAT THE GOG NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THESE BASES AND HOW MANY AMERICAN PERSONNEL WERE ON GREEK SOIL.

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